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Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 MAR 2002

S/N 10/018232

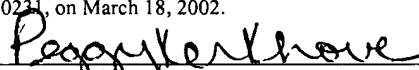
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


Applicant: D'HOND, et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No.: 10/018232 Group Art Unit: Unknown
Filed: December 12, 2002 Docket No.: 9424.169USWO
Title: DOSING DEVICE ADAPTED FOR DISPENSING A CONCENTRATE
FROM A HOLDER IN A METERED MANNER

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 18, 2002.

By:


Peggy Kerkhove

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in an International Search Report mailed September 14, 2000. Applicant hereby brings attention to the examiner that they have a commonly assigned co-pending application Serial No. 10/009853, filed December 11, 2001. The specification for the afore-mentioned application is enclosed for the Examiner's review.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the International Search Report.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

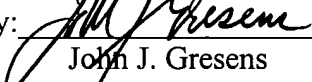
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332.5300

Dated: March 18, 2002

By: 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No.: 33,112

JJG/pjk

FORM 1449*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number:

9424.169USWO

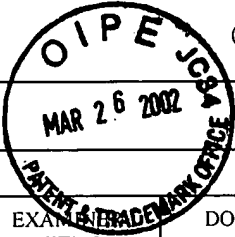
Application Number:

10/018232

Applicant: D'HOND, et al.

Filing Date: December 12,
2002

Group Art Unit: Unknown



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	3,575,535	April, 1971	Bickar ^o			
	4,334,640	June, 1982	van Overbruggen, et al. ^o			
	5,269,443	December, 1993	Lancaster ^o			
	5,836,482	November, 1998	Ophardt, et al. ^o			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	0 067 466	December, 1982	EPO ^o				
	2 103 296	February, 1983	United Kingdom ^o				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)



23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.